

K-153

Ryley Farm/Plumb Park/Heritage Farm
Gregg Neck
c. 1760's

The land on which the Ryley House was built was patented to William Palmer as "Plum Park" in 1667.¹ It was 350 acres and adjoined Indian Range, a tract of 250 acres patented in 1671 to Jarvis Morgan. In the early 18th Century, when this area was part of Cecil County, John Riley (or Ryley), Jr. purchased 50 acres of Plum Park and established himself thereon.² With additional purchases of 100 acres in 1708³ and 150 acres in 1725⁴ John Riley's farming operation had become significant. By 1730 he was able to purchase 250 acres of Indian Range adjoining his other holdings.⁵ This tract was located on both sides of Mill Creek (formerly known as Palmer or Quidley Creek).

In John Riley's will of 1733, he bequeathed his dwelling plantation to his wife, Indian Range to Isaac Riley (probably his nephew) and the remainder of his holdings to his brother Nicholas.⁶ Isaac and Nicholas died within a very short time of one another in 1745. Not long after, inventories were made of their personal estates. Neither had a value which could possibly correspond to the caliber of the house which has most recently been known as Heritage Farm.⁷

After his father's death, Nicholas had his inheritance surveyed under the name of "Ryley's Land Resurveyed." It totaled 561 acres.⁸ Nicholas' will is not as specific as one might wish, for he leaves to his son Nicholas "all my lands in Riley's Neck on Sassafras River with all the premeses and appurtenances . . . (except 100 acres with premeses belonging to be laid out

75 perches from the River adjoining on Indian Range and running south with said Indian Range to make up the said 100 acre) . . .". To son Benjamin he bequeathed his dwelling plantation after the death of his wife Mary. There is some question as to whether or not his "dwelling plantation" and "Ryley's Land Resurveyed" are not the same.⁹

It seems most likely that Nicholas, Jr. constructed the brick house (he had inherited the land from his father in 1745). The details of the Riley House are similar to other mid-18th century houses remaining in this part of Kent County, such as The Adventure, Partners Addition and Tibbalds.

In form, his house was remarkably similar to that of his neighbor Thomas Browning, a house on land called Partners Addition. Both houses were two full stories with attics, they were built in a combination of Flemish and common bond, and had central entrances on their three bay facades. Both had pent eaves on the two long facades between floors. And while the fenestration of the rear of Browning's houses included two windows on the second floor, this feature was repeated on both facades at Riley's. The exterior basement entrance was located through the fireplace arch at the north end of the house similar to The Adventure.

Inside, the house was more conventional than Browning's, with hall-parlor plan and centered fireplaces. Both rooms had enclosed winder stairs behind a paneled wall. The configuration of the fireplaces is basically the same as at Browning's, but more like The Adventure, where the same bolection molding surrounds the fireplace and the panel arrangement above is similar. In the hall, the stair had a turned balustrade with square fluted newel, like Dullam's Folly nearby. On the opposite side of the

fireplace there was a closet. The parlor wall on the other hand had an exterior door to the kitchen and it lacked a balustrade.

Riley's second floor plan consisted of two rooms corresponding to the rooms below.

(insertion of plan?) - graphic

Whether the kitchen was attached or not is unknown. It was surely off the south gable since an original door remains in place and the majority of 18th century houses had kitchens in a similar location.

Relatively brief in nature, the will of Nicholas Riley, Jr. sites William as executor and bequeaths monetary amounts to Araminta and Nicholas.¹⁰ There is no mention made of real estate. Two months after his death, an inventory of Nicholas' personal property was taken. Here we find a large amount of household furniture, farm tools and seven slave—all valued at @594.15.2. His nearest kin were Benjamin Riley and Sarah Huff, probably his siblings. Two additional inventories brought Nicholas' worth to @941.2.17, a large increase in comparison to his father.¹¹

William Riley survived his father by only nine years. In the meantime, he had married Rachel Stockton and had had two children. Soon after their marriage, Rachel was paid a visit from a friend, Philip Vickers Fithian, while he was traveling across the Eastern Shore. Fithian, a tutor to the children of Robert Carter of Nomini Hall in Virginia, made his way to New Jersey in the spring of 1774 and wrote in his diary of his stay at Georgetown and of his visit with Rachel Riley:

"In this Town & the neighbouring Country rages at present a malignant, putrid Fever, & what is generally called the spotted Fever!—From Chester

Town I rode to George-Town, 16 miles—The Land level, fertile, & vastly pleasant—in this Town I visited Mr. Voorhees, an eminent Merchant here, & he seems to be a Gentleman of peculiar smartness Industry & Oconomy—The Fever I now mentioned, is also here, & the whooping-Cough is very general & malignant—I lodged with this Gentleman—We had Evening prayers—Since I left Cohansie I have not heard the like—This is a small Town, & lies on a fine River, which divides it from another small Town directly opposite call'd Frederick.”

Friday, April 15, 1774 (p.132)

“I rose early—After Breakfast I rode to see Miss Rachel Stocktin, now Mrs. Ryley; She lives on this River, about a mile higher up, in a large very elegant brick House; in considerable grandeur—Poor Girl She herself is much indisposed either of a bad Cold, (as She thinks) or of this epidemical Fever; Mrs. Ryley introduced me ceremoniously to Miss Ryley her husbands Sister. She has a small handsome Fortune, & is perhaps agreeable—I returned to Town, and dined with Mr. Voorhees, & immediately after crossed over the Ferry for Port-Penn. Expence at George-Town for my Horse 2/3 to Boy 4d. I rode next to a small village called Warwick, a pitiful place indeed . . . ”¹²

In his will, written in 1782, William Riley appointed Rachel and merchant friend and creditor John Vorhees of Georgetown to be executors. He bequeathed the plantation to his son Nicholas, but Nicholas was a young boy and was not to receive the plantation until the year 1800. Two children and “the child or children my wife now goes with” were mentioned in William’s will.¹³ The unborn child turned out to be Mary for whom Rachel took out guardian papers in the fall of 1783.¹⁴ John Bantham was appointed

Guardian for Nicholas in 1786 and he in turn had Nicholas' inheritance appraised for the court.

"Whereas we the subscribers being appointed to vallue the Lands and plantation belonging to Nicholas Rily, an Orphan, unto John Bantham his guardian, we do therefore vallue the said Lands, Houfis, & Out Houses at the following Rates or forces to wit—one tract of Land Called Plum Park supposed to contain 250 acres of land with 65 apple trees thereon & 60 peach trees one & ahalf Acres per year to be cleared & no more & not more than one third of sd. land to be turned in any one year, the land to be cleared is on the south End sd. tract enclosure of all dead timber which the sd. guardian has a right to make use of. The plantation in Medling good Repair orphans 2/3 vallued to—one Brick Dwelling Hous 36 by 21 feet in good repair. one Barn 30 by 25 feet. in good repair—with a 10 foot shed one stable 20 by 18 in tolerable repair & 2 8 foot sheds one Corn Hous 18 by. 9 in tolerable d° one Quarther 20 by 18 in Bad d° one Meat Hous 10 by 10 in ditto d° one Milk d° 10 by 10 tolerable d° one Kitchen – 24 by 18 tolerable – d° one Pailed garden in Bad repair NB There is no allowance or deduction for the orphans Maintenance or education or assesments or any publick dues but that all such amounts shall be deducted out of the afsd valuation—Kent County To wit – we do Hereby certify that we the subscribers have made the above valluation on the 14th day of August 1786 witnefs our Hand & Seals
Robert Moody (seal)
Daniel Cornelius (seal)"¹⁵

In 1800 John Bantham and his wife Rachel ("formerly Rachel Riley, wife of William Riley late of Kent County Dec'd") sold Rachel's dower right

to Nicholas for \$200.¹⁶ Later that year Nicholas sold the farm out of the family to John Allen of Fredericktown, Cecil County.¹⁷ Little is know about the ownership of John Allen, but he did acquire the rest of the Riley lands before it passed to his son Mordicai who died in 1829. Ezekiel Forman Chambers was appointed trustee to sell the lands of Allen which he did in November of 1829 to John and Alexander Gregg of Baltimore. By the time the deed was recorded in 1836, Alexander Gregg was the surviving partner in the transaction.¹⁸ The purchase included 515 acres, nearly the same amount as Nicholas Riley had owned in 1734.

Alexander Gregg's widow, Harriett and their children sold the farm in 1848 to Isaac Lum of New Castle County, Delaware.¹⁹ Lum's only heir was his daughter Clara who married Richard R. Cochran. During the occupancy of the Lum or Cochran families, the pent eaves were removed from the front and back of the house and the west facade received a full porch. At the same time a two story frame kitchen wing was constructed on the south side of the house. In a turn-of-the-century photograph, in the possession of the family, Mr. Cochran can be seen sitting on the porch with his family.

The house and farm remained in the family, tenanted after 1907, until 1946, when the farm was sold to J. Early and Mary E. Wood from New York City.²⁰ Prior to their purchase, however, many lots had been sold along the waterfront, beginning in 1931.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood remodeled the old house, upgrading all of the mechanical systems, installing baths, etc. They removed the partition

between the hall and parlor and exposed the ceiling joists which had been plastered originally. Chair rail was removed and window trim renewed. On the outside of the house a small six-pane window was installed on each end of the facade to light a lavatory and stair. A small round window was placed above the entry to light the bath. On the east side, overlooking Swantown Creek, the Woods added a two story porch. They also remodeled the kitchen.

The Woods lived in the old house until 1959 when they moved into a modern house nearby and sold the rest of the farm, then consisting of 380 acres to Harry and Helen Heston.²¹ The Hestons transferred the property to a limited partnership from which the house and twenty three acres were later sold to Richard and Joanne Reeve in 1977. The Reeves lavished much care and attention on the house and property before selling it to the present owners.

1. Patents.
2. Cecil County Land Records.
3. Land Records, Lib. JS, fol. 58.
4. Land Records, Lib. JS, fol. 554.
5. Land Records, Lib. JS 16, fol. 14.
6. Wills, Lib. 1, fol. 391.
7. Inventories, Lib. 3, fol. 404, Lib. 3, fol. 402, 459.

Isaac's inventory totaled @53.19.3 3/4 and Nicholas' inventory amounted to ~~£~~178.17.5 plus the crops of the following year for an additional ~~£~~43.3.0 3/4.

8. Certificate.
9. Wills, Lib. 2, fol. 239.

10. Wills, Lib. 5, fol. 126.
11. Inventories, Lib. 7, fol. 143.
12. Journal and Letter of Philip Vickers Fithian, 1773-1774: A Plantation Tutor of the Old Dominion. Edited by Hunter Dickenson Farish, Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., 1943, pp. 131, 132. Fithian may have known Rachel from when he was at College in Princeton, Rachel's home town. "Miss Ryley" was William's sister Araminta who had received a ~~£~~\$300 bequest from her father. Then William died and the inventory of his personal estate was appraised, in 1782, "Araminta Bantham" was listed as next of kin. Apparently, she had married John Bantham, soon after Fithian's visit.
13. Wills, Lib. 7, fol. 12.
14. Guardian Bonds, Lib. 1, fol. 277.
14. Guardian Bonds, Lib. 2, fol. 277.
15. Guardian Bonds, Lib. 2, fol. 28.
16. Land Records, Lib. TW 1, fol. 464.
17. Land Records, Lib. TW 1, fol. 538.
18. Land Records, Lib. JNG 4, fol. 342.
19. Land Records, Lib. JNG 12, fol. 46.
20. Land Records, Lib. RAS 41, fol. 394.
21. Land Records, Lib. WHG 60, fol. 511.
22. Land Records, Lib. EHP 14, fol. 810. Col. and Mrs. Reeve are responsible for the majority of the research on the farm which they have named Heritage Farm.

K-153

Circa 1709-1711

Nicholas Ryley House

Near Galena

Private

The Nicholas Ryley House is in the northeast section of Gregg Neck, one of the numerous necks of the Sassafrass River. It overlooks Swantown Creek to the east. The Nicholas Ryley House was constructed in a vernacular Georgian style, really the late or post-medieval style that seemed to prevail in much of the county for much of the eighteenth century. Two storeys tall, the main brick section is three bays wide with center entry on both east and west sides. This building is somewhat unusual in not having its axis run east-west, the most common practice of the period. Orientation to the creek may have been the intention. The plan is hall and parlor, but the partition between the rooms has been removed, and the lath and plaster stripped from the single large first-storey room as well.

With a probable building date of circa 1709-1711, the Nicholas Ryley House is one of the earliest surviving houses in upper Kent County, or indeed in Kent County considered as a whole. Unlike some other relatively early buildings, however, it is not just a brick shell, with interior details gone. While there have been alterations, it retains most of its fine, original panelling. Carved initials that match those of an early resident are beneath the earliest paint. One of the stair newels is particularly unusual, a very early Georgian or almost Jacobean. Fortunately for this house's historical record, legal requirements for the protection of a minor provided for inventorying property both real and personal. Much information is available therein indicating how the building was used and about other buildings on the property. It is interesting to note that one inclusion is for Prussian blue paint, the first color applied to the north second-storey paneling. This probably is the house referred to by Philip Vickers Fithian, the Princeton tutor whose journal has been published. During a pre-Revolutionary journey through Kent County Fithian lodged at Georgetown and then went up-river for a social call; he remarked on the fine, large brick house. The occupant he mentioned is thought to have lived in this house at the time. It would have been considered one of the best buildings in the area, though it is not particularly large.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Nicholas Ryley House (preferred); Gregg Neck Farm; Cochran Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number East side Gregg Neck Rd., 1.1 mile north of Rt. 290 ☐ not for publication
northeast of Galena

city, town Galena ☒ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Kent

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Richard Revie

street & number Gregg Neck Road telephone no.: 648-5444

city, town Galena state and zip code Maryland 21635

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kent County Courthouse liber EHP74

street & number Cross Street folio 810

city, town Chestertown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory - HABS Inventory

date September 18, 1968 ☒ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

7. Description

Survey No. K-153

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Nicholas Ryley House is in the northeast section of Gregg Neck, one of the numerous necks of the Sassafras River. It overlooks Swantown Creek to the east. With a probable building date 1709-1711, the Nicholas Ryley House was constructed in a vernacular Georgian style, really the late or post-medieval style that seemed to prevail in much of the county for much of the eighteenth century. Two-storeys tall, the main brick section is three bays wide with center entry on both east and west sides. This building is somewhat unusual in not having its axis run east-west, the most common practice of the period. Orientation to the creek may have been the intention. The plan is hall and parlor, but the partition between the rooms has been removed, and the lath and plater stripped from the single large first-storey room as well. Fenestration is symmetrical on front and rear; the openings align from first storey to second. There are several additional modern openings on the main, west facade, however. A two-storey, two-bay-wide frame wing was added to the south end of the main section in the nineteenth century. The door in the main section south end's east bay that now leads to the wing formerly was an exterior door to the detached kitchen near that end of the house, some evidences of which have been found. A two-storey porch is on the east side of the main section.

(Continued)

8. Significance

Survey No. K-153

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1711 Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

With a probable building date of circa 1709-1711, the Nicholas Ryley House is one of the earliest surviving houses in upper Kent County, or indeed in Kent County considered as a whole. Unlike some other relatively early buildings, however, it is not just a brick shell, with interior details gone. While it has been somewhat altered (most notably the removal of the first-storey partition, the ceiling lath and plaster, and chair rail), it retains most of its fine, original panelling. Carved initials that match those of an early resident are beneath the earliest paint. One of the stair newels is particularly unusual, a very early Georgian or almost Jacobean. Fortunately for this house's historical record, legal requirements for the protection of a minor provided for inventorying property both real and personal. Much information is available therein indicating how the building was used. It is interesting to note that one inclusion is for Prussian blue paint, the first color applied to the north second-storey paneling. This probably is the house referred to by Philip Vickers Fithian, the Princeton tutor whose journal has been published. During a pre-Revolutionary journey through Kent County Fithian lodged at Georgetown and then went up-river for a social call; he remarked on the fine, large brick house. The occupant he mentioned is thought to have lived in this house at the time. It would have been considered one of the best buildings in the area, though it is not particularly large.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. K-153

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Margaret Q. Fallaw, Survey Consultant		
organization	County Commissioners of Kent County	date	October 24, 1985
street & number	Court House	telephone	778-4600
	Cross Street		778-3499
city or town	Chestertown	state	Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

Some details of the first storey of the main section are gone (chair rail), and some have been added (window trim at windows that originally probably had none, simply jamb edges). A second floor has been laid of modern flooring, though the wide, random flooring seen in the cellar as the first floor appears to be in quite good condition for the most part. Chimneys are on both end walls and are panelled on both storeys. The array at the north end of the first storey appears entirely original, with a five-panel composition over the fireplace. Around the fireplace is a large bolection molding (though the shelves would have been added) that is slightly different from the one at the south fireplace. To the west of the fireplace a former closet has been converted to a powder room, but the door seems be the original. It has three pairs of panels, the center pair the smallest and close to square. Above the door is a pair of vertical panels; to each side, from floor to ceiling, is a pair of narrow tall panels. The closet door to the right of the fireplace has three panels. Hanging hardware appears to be original, HL hinges. The stair door on the east side, however, appears to be a later, replacement door.

The brick section has a corner stair in diagonally opposite corners: the northeast corner and southwest corner. The southwest stair is closed string and with no balustrade. There does appear to ever have been any. The northeast stair is unusual, with heavy fluted post, heavy flared cap, and closely set balusters that are simply turned and square. The lower rail is quite unusual (see profile).

The paneling of the south end appears original in the center and west of the fireplace. Again the mantel is with bolection molding (and added shelf), but it is somewhat different from that of the north mantel. To the east of the fireplace there are modern modifications, passage through to the wing kitchen, bookshelves, and paneling above that does not appear original. The wear on the exterior trim outside the door now leading to the wing indicates that it was an exterior door. Various artifacts have been found to the southeast of this door indicating that a kitchen may once have been located there. Another curiosity turned up on the property is a Royal Marine button from the period of the War of 1812, leading to the possibility that the British may have ventured slightly upriver of Georgetown during the attack there in May 1813.

The question of dating this house arises. High in the north gable there is a brick incised with the initials WR and the date 1711. The incising is now picked out with black paint. William Ryley was the owner at that time. Also, the present owners state that the pegged attic tie beam that was closest to the north chimney had an incised date on it, of 1709 or 1711, when they looked at the house when it was for sale. By the time they closed on the house and moved in, the tie beam had been removed. If the dates are accurate, this is a more sophisticated house than early Kent County colonists are usually given credit for.

The main, west facade on the exterior is laid in Flemish bond, with some dark and/or glazed headers visible. One cannot be sure whether there is a deliberate pattern because of the paint or whitewash, but it is probable. Bricks vary considerably in size but are quite large, with large mortar joints.

There is a two-course belt immediately below the window sills of the second storey, and there is some indication (from patches) that the house once had a pent eave from below that belt, the belt thus serving as a drip for the eave. This part of the county is notable for having buildings with pent eaves. They were at Scotch Folly (K-142), the Mitchell House, or Partners' Addition nearby (K-152), and at Shallcross Farm (K-153). This is generally a detail seen farther to the north, in Cecil County and northward. The pent eaves probably were removed in the nineteenth century as they deteriorated and as large porches were desired during the Victorian period. Until quite recently there was a large porch on the main facade. Signs of an old, small porch remain in the brickwork near the entries. The foundation is laid in English bond and stepped over the two cellar windows. The cap appears to be a cyma reversa, though it is not intact everywhere. The water table continues around the north end and the rear. The east side bond is Flemish, and that of the ends appears to be Liverpool (1-to-3). The east water table is now only formed with modern mortar in places. Otherwise it is plain.

Several additional openings have been made in the facade: small six-light windows on the first storey between the outer windows and building corners, to light a powder room and a stair, and a center round window on the center storey to light what is now a bathroom. Somewhat unusually, there is no indication of a former center window.

In the cellar there are very large arched chimney bases. The north one is unusual in combining the chimney base with the cellar entry, actually a quite logical solution for providing two necessities. Since the arch had to be built anyway to carry the weight of the chimney (unless one wanted to waste many bricks with a solid chimney base and create a too-heavy chimney), the builder must have thought that he might as well continue the arch to carry the wall itself and then use the opening for cellar access, thus avoiding the necessity for constructing a separate cellar entryway. This is not seen elsewhere in Kent County. On the exterior there most likely would originally have been a roofed cellar entry there, but it is gone.

1. STATE Maryland
 COUNTY Kent
 TOWN Galena VICINITY Gregg Neck
 STREET NO. Gregg Neck Rd.

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 INVENTORY K-153

2. NAME Gregg Neck Farm

DATE OR PERIOD early 18th Century
 STYLE Colonial
 ARCHITECT
 BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

ORIGINAL OWNER
 ORIGINAL USE dwelling
 PRESENT OWNER Harry Heston
 PRESENT USE dwelling
 WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick
 NO. OF STORIES 2

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC No

C. 1709 - Cochran - in Middleton Bank -

The "Gregg Neck Farm" house is a 2 bay long, 2 story brick house with an "A" roof and end chimneys. There is a basement laid out ^{chamfered} and water table which goes above the basement windows. The remainder of the ~~west~~ ^{west} facade is laid out in Flemish bond (glazed headers) and the entire bldg is painted white. The single center door has a rectangular transom and small windows have been cut into the walls where the stairs wind to the 2nd story (these date from the remodeling about 20 years ago). Beneath the 2nd story windows is a 2 brick string course (apparently there was a pent eave, as at the Mitchell property on the same road). A circular window was added between the 2 upper windows at the time of the remodeling. The roof is now covered with tin and there is a one story porch on the west facade and circular brick steps to the entrance. A 2 story porch was built on the east side and a frame wing on the south gable.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior Exterior good



6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
 INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.

9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER

Michael Bourne

DATE OF RECORD Sept 13, 1968

RECEIVED

JUL 21 1977

MARYLAND HISTORICAL
TRUST

Mr. Mark R. Edwards
Historic Sites Survey Coordinator
Maryland Historical Trust
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Quarters #180, MCOEC
Quantico, Virginia 22134
July 20, 1977

Gregg Neck Rd.
Galena, Md. 21635

301-648-5444

Dear Mr. Edwards:

Thank you for your prompt response to our inquiry about the home we have just purchased. You have correctly identified our property as the Gregg Neck Farm, Site K-153. We were certain that the home was 18th century and are delighted that your survey dates it circa 1709. In studying the information sheets on our house and the Roy Mitchell property, K-152, it seems that the interior of our house was not surveyed. We are happy to report that all of the panelling and mouldings on all four fireplace walls have been retained and seem to be in a good state of repair. We suspect that mantels have been added to all four fireplaces, and that the window and door mouldings have been modernized. We are anxious to restore the interior to its original design as much as practically possible and are also considering taking off the one story porch on the west (front) facade. What we feel we need at this point is a person who can make a personal inspection of the premises and advise us on the appropriateness of our construction plans. Before we become involved in trying to have our house listed in the National Register we would like to have a meeting with you or an appropriate official to enlighten us on the advantages and disadvantages of such an action. Can the Trust help us in these two respects?

Does the Trust have a record of the legal chain of title to the property? Our attorney at the settlement only has run the title back sixty years. We do not understand the term "in Middleton Bank" which appears in the original sentence of the survey ... "c. 1709 - Cochran - in Middleton Bank -" We presume Cochran to be one of the past owners.

My husband and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

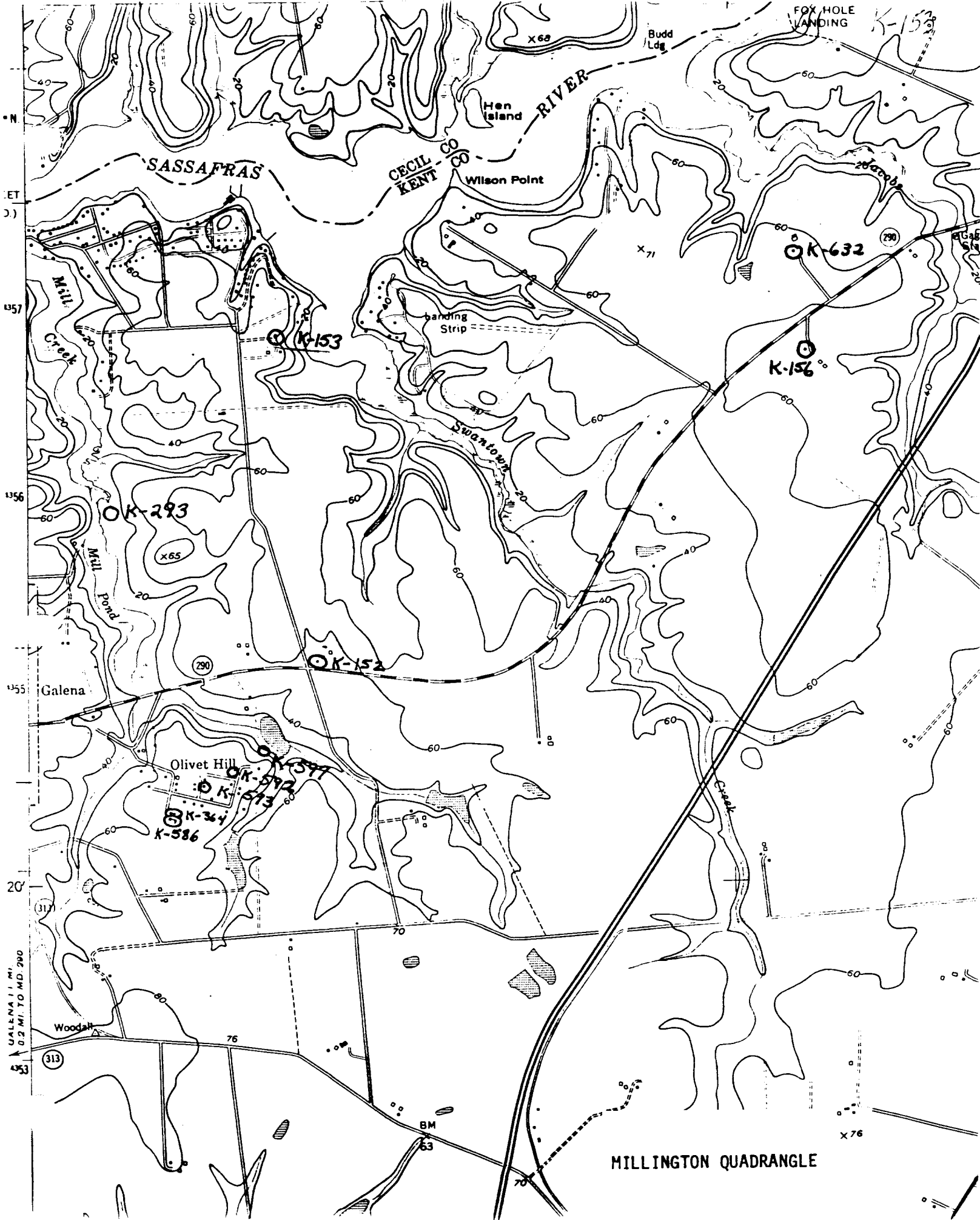
Joanne S. Revie

Richard

301-648-5444

c. 1709 - Cochran - in Middleton Bank -

The "Gregg Neck Farm" house is a two bay long, two story brick house with an A roof and end chimneys. There is a basement laid in English bond and a chamfered water table which jogs above the basement windows. The remainder of the west facade is laid in Flenish bond (glazed headers) and the entire building is painted white. The single center door has a rectangular transom and small windows have been cut into the walls where the stairs wind to the second story (these date from the remodeling about twenty years ago.) Beneath the second story windows is a two brick string course (apparently there was a pent eave, as at the Mitchell property on the same road). A circular window was added between the two upper windows at the time of the remodeling. The roof is now covered with tin and there is a one story porch on the west facade and circular brick steps to the entrance. A two story porch was built on the east side and a frame wing on the south gable.





K-153

Nicholas Ryley Farm

Gregg Neck Rd., near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 10/25/85

View to east

K153
#33
7ac

CDI A-4²



K-153

Nicholas Ryley Farm

Gregg Neck Rd., near Galena

M. Q. Fallaw - 10/25/85

View to west

9 acc

#3

K153